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Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli

*2438 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract for supplies to the Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, has been given to private contractors instead of the Urban Co-operative Stores; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Urban Co-operative Stores offered to supply all articles to the hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : I am personally aware, Sir, that the Urban Co-operative Stores, Tiruchirappalli, offered to supply the requirements of the Government Hospital. Therefore I wonder how the Hon. Minister says 'no' to my question.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The question is whether the Urban Co-operative Stores offered to supply all articles. For that I answered, 'no'.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Not all articles. But all articles of diet.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The question is not properly framed.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister what are the articles that the Co-operative Stores offered to supply to the hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : It is a fairly long list. The number of articles is 23.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : What are the articles that are supplied by private contractors?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : All articles.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : May I know whether he has received representations from the representatives of the Urban Co-operative Stores that the Government Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, have refused their offer with regard to the supply of diet articles and left it to private contract? 8-50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : According to the provisions of Article 128 of the Madras Financial Code, Volume I, a fixed price is essential and no agreement should provide for a price fluctuating with the market-rate. The tender of the Co-operative Stores was defective as it was not submitted in duplicate as required under the rules. Besides, the Society quoted the wholesale market rates ruling on the date of submission of the tender with a rider that supplies would be made at 5 per cent over the prevailing wholesale market-rate from time to time. As this is against the rules the tender of the society was not considered.

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DR. U. KRISHNA RAO : Is it not a fact that in all hospitals diet-articles are got by tenders? If so, does the tender of the Co-operative Stores compare favourably with the market price?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir, it is by the tender system that the articles are got.

Taxation Enquiry Commission's report

* 2439 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there will be any change in the method of collection of sales tax with reference to the Taxation Enquiry Commission's report?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Government have not yet taken any decision in the matter.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : டாக்ஸேஷன் என்கொயரி கமிஷன் கடைசி கட்டத்தில் வரி வாங்க வேண்டுமென்று சிபாரிசு செய்திருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது கூட்டப்போகும் மகாநாட்டில் முதல் கட்டத்தில் வரி வாங்க வேண்டுமென்று யோசனை பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். டாக்ஸேஷன் என்கொயரி கமிஷன் கடைசி கட்டத்தில் வரி வாங்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வதால் எந்த முறையை அனுஷ்டிக்க சர்க்காருக்கு உத்தேசம் இருக்கிறது."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : அந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டை கனம் அங்கத்தினர் படித்திருப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. அதையெல்லாம் இனிமேல்தான் கவனித்துச் செய்யப்படும்.

Repairs to the Cannoly Canal

* 2440 *Q*.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed by the Kozhikode Municipality requesting the Government to repair the Cannoly Canal; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : In view of the importance of the Canal, will the Government take urgent steps to repair it?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is why I have already stated that it is under the consideration of the Government.

Gratuity to the Government Transport Workers

* 2441 *Q*.—SRI K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri P. Jeevanandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the gratuity amounts are not disbursed within a stipulated time to the relatives of the deceased workers belonging to the Government Transport, Madras ; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for such delays?